

e-CourtReporter Presents:
e-Tips Newsletter

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“Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.”
Albert Einstein

Wil Wilcox: Hide Mouse Pointer While Typing
Keith Vincent: Quick Display Control

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Wil's e-Tip

Mouse Terminator

Note: This is a new feature only available with Windows XP.

As you are editing your transcript, you've probably noticed that darn mouse pointer can get in the way of the text. While you can take your hands off the keyboard and move the pointer out of the way, wouldn't it be nice if you could just have the pointer disappear while you type? Here's how:

Click Start and then click on Control Panel.

Make sure you're in Classic View and open the Mouse applet.

In the Mouse Properties dialog box, put a checkmark in the Hide pointer while typing checkbox.

Click Apply and then click OK.

Now the mouse pointer will disappear while you type!

Keith's e-Tip

Quick Display Control

Looking for a quick switch to and from "What-you-see-is-what-you-get" (WYSIWYG) display? Press **Shift Ctrl F12**. This has been part of the keyboard setup that can be imported from the Eclipse.SET file for at least a year now. So if you're using EclipseNT and have not yet migrated to Total Eclipse, this tip can still work for you.

Shift Ctrl F12: Display

- 1 - WYSIWYG Preview
- 2 - Default Display
- 3 - Show or Hide Print Commands (also available via Shift Ctrl F10)
- 4 - Temporary Display Change (also available via Shift Ctrl F11)
- 5 - Permanent Display Change
- 6 - Realtime Tag-Along (Toggle)

Let's look at these more closely. Shift Ctrl F12 uses a group of macros to save you the trouble of going to the Display section of User Settings.

I use a large, proportional Editing Font to make text easy to read as I'm scoping. To set that up, I went to the Display section of User Settings and selected "Editing Font." A proportional font like Arial or Times New Roman does not need as much horizontal space to display your average line of testimony. So it leaves room to zoom in on your text. These and other display preferences can be part of your user settings that Eclipse uses each time you open a new document.

In contrast, my "WYSIWYG Preview" is not a permanent display change. It only affects the window or pane in which my cursor is located. If I open a new document, my default display settings are used. This makes sense to me, but if you always wanted your text documents to open in WYSIWYG display, you could simply go to the Display section of User Settings and click on the WYSIWYG button.

In other words, when you open the Display section of User Settings, you're indicating a permanent preference. However, it's also possible to make just a temporary display change, and some of the macros available via Shift Ctrl F12 do just that. I've included "Temporary Display Change" as Choice 4 on the list that opens when you press Shift Ctrl F12. If you want to use one less step to make a temporary display change, you can also press Shift Ctrl F11.

What about Choice 3 on the list, "Show or Hide Print Commands"? Most of the time I like to hide print commands because I think it makes the screen more readable. However, when I'm filling in blanks on index lines, I like to show the print commands. I've also set up Shift Ctrl F10 as a fast way of switching from one display preference to the other.

Finally, I've included Choice 6, "Realtime Tag-Along." At times I want the cursor to always follow my realtime writing. At others times I may want the cursor to stay where I've been editing, even if I resume writing on the steno keyboard. Rather than have to go to the Realtime section of my user settings and check or uncheck the box next to "Follow always," I can just press Shift Ctrl F12 and then 6.

By the way, there's a Visualizer that demonstrates some of this? It's vA3_WYSIWYG. You can find it within Total Eclipse by going to the Help menu and selecting "Visualizer topics" or by going to the Help menu and selecting "Eclipse manual."

Who Are We?

Wil Wilcox is a freelance court reporter in Los Angeles, California, and has been a technology consultant for reporters since 1995. Since 1998, he and Robert Denos have been the Advantage Software representatives for Southern California.

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